DAREDEVIL · LUKE CAGE · JESSICA JONES · IRON FIST

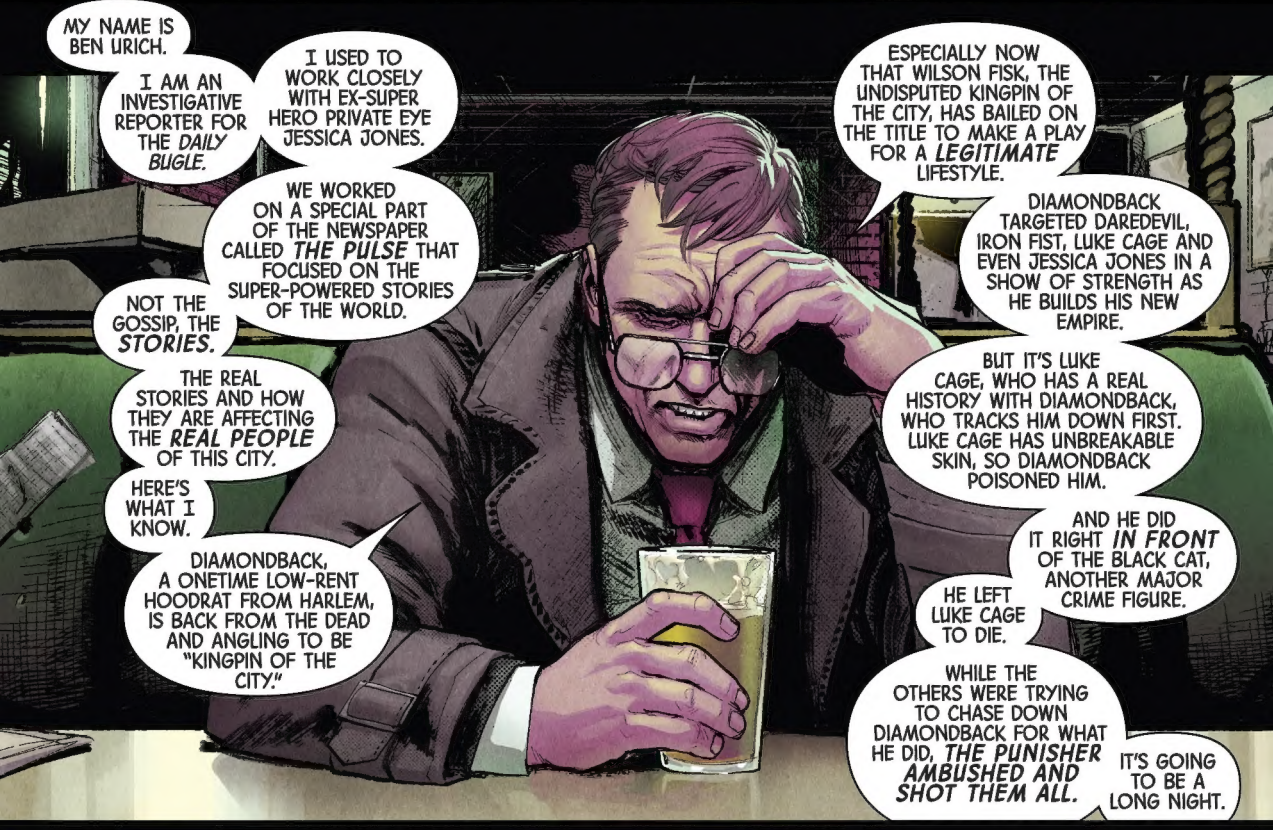
THE DEFENDERS

MARVEL

#3

BENDIS
MARQUEZ
PONSOR

THE DEFENDERS



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HERBIE'S
PATRICE O'NEAL.
MY MAN.
NEVER HEARD HIM? GREAT COMEDIAN.
AS UNDERRATED AS IT GETS. PATRICE O'NEAL.
THE BROTHER DID NOT GIVE ANY EFFS ABOUT ANYTHING OR ANYONE.
HE GOT ME THINKING.
HE SAID THAT WE BLACK PEOPLE WOULD PROBABLY FORGIVE SLAVERY IF SLAVERY HAD, LIKE, A FACE TO IT.
LIKE THE HOLOCAUST HAD HITLER.
SO NOW PEOPLE--THEY CAN JUST FOCUS THEIR HOLOCAUST ANGER AT HITLER.
BUT WHAT DO WE HAVE?
DIAMONDBACK, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DID YOU SAVE LUKE CAGE'S LIFE?
YES.
BLACK CAT.
EXPLAIN THAT ONE.

IT'S GOOD FOR BUSINESS.
IF HE DIES THE WAY YOU TRIED TO KILL HIM...
...DAREDEVIL, THE PUNISHER, IRON FIST, JESSICA JONES, CAPTAIN MARVEL, IRON MAN, ALL THE SPIDER-MEN, THE INHUMANS--
I GET IT.
I'M NOT EVEN GETTING STARTED.
THE ENTIRETY OF HARLEM IS GOING TO TEAR THIS CITY APART LOOKING FOR YOU.
I THINK YOU HAVE AN INFLATED SENSE OF LUKE CAGE'S STREET CRED.
UH-HUH.
YOU COME HERE TO SHOW ME YOU AIN'T SCARED A'ME.
IT SHOWS ME...YOU'RE TOO SCARED NOT TO.

SMACK
CRACK
WHACK
BUGAI!!
GAH!
IS THE WAY YOU ACT TOWARD ME A WOMAN THING?
OR ARE YOU JUST--?
COMPETITIVE.

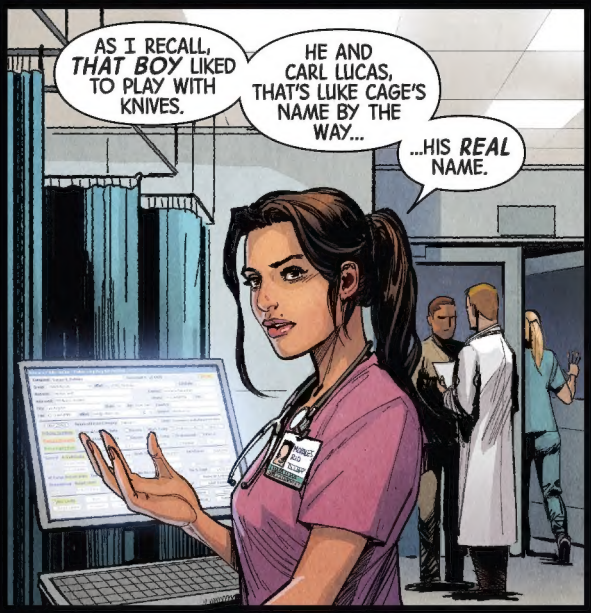
OR SELF-DESTRUCTIVE.
BABY, I AM FIVE STEPS AHEAD AND YOU JUST CAN'T SEE THE MOVES...
THE OTHER REASON I DIDN'T LET YOU KILL LUKE CAGE IS HE'S A GOOD MAN.
I DON'T MIND TEARING SOMEONE'S HEART OUT IF THEY STAND BETWEEN ME AND MINE.
BUT A GUY LIKE HIM DESERVES BETTER THAN A GUY LIKE YOU.
YOU KEEP THIS UP, KITTY CAT...
...I DON'T SEE THIS ENDING WELL.
WELL, YOU'RE FIVE STEPS AHEAD OF ME--
--DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

DAMN IT!
GOOD EVENING, MISS JONES.
DON'T GET UP.
UGH! NIGHT NURSE? WHAT THE HELL?!
JUST LISTEN TO ME FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE AND LIE DOWN.
UGH.
BAM
$@$%@.
I WAS SHOT. I THOUGHT I WAS DEAD.
THOSE BULLETS WERE NONLETHAL BUT PREPARED FOR US.
THEY WERE MEANT TO PARALYZE US.
THAT GUY'S A JERKFACE.
HEY...

OH, HEY BABY...
YOU OKAY?
OH, YEAH, JESS...
I SEE YOU ALL HAD A NIGHT.
THE PUNISHER.
THE PUNISHER SHOT Y'ALL?
YEAH! THE PUNISHER.
I KNOW YOU LOVE HIM, BUT HE--
LOVE HIM?
I EVER SEE HIM AGAIN, I'M GONNA SHOVE ONE OF THOSE GUNS UP HIS--
BEFORE HE TOOK A SHOT AT ME, YOU LOVED HIM BECAUSE HE "CLEARS THE HERD OF IDIOTS."
I FEEL ABOUT HIM LIKE I FEEL ABOUT COYOTES.
YOU'RE FROM HARLEM.
I'VE SEEN COYOTES ON TV.
HE SHOT US BUT HE DIDN'T WANT TO KILL US.
HE WANTED TO STOP US FROM CHASING AFTER DIAMONDBACK.
WHY WOULD THE PUNISHER BE BACKING UP DIAMONDBACK, DANNY?
AND HOW IS DIAMONDBACK EVEN BACK?
SHOOTING US FOR INTERFERING WITH DIAMONDBACK'S OPERATION FLIES IN THE FACE OF EVERYTHING FRANK CASTLE BELIEVES IN.
WHO'S FRANK CASTLE?
THE PUNISHER.
YOU GUYS KNOW HIS NAME?
THERE WAS A NAT GEO SPECIAL ON HIM.
PEOPLE KNOW IT.
UGH.
BOYS AND GUNS.
"DIAMONDBACK..."

EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT DIAMONDBACK ALL OF A SUDDEN.
MOST PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW THERE'S SOME HISTORY HERE.
TECHNOLOGY
OnStyle
Peeps!

LUKE CAGE AND DIAMONDBACK WERE BEST FRIENDS.
THEY CAME UP ON THE STREETS TOGETHER. BOYHOOD FRIENDS.
HIS REAL NAME IS WESLEY. NO, WILLIS.
WILLIS.


AS I RECALL, THAT BOY LIKED TO PLAY WITH KNIVES.
HE AND CARL LUCAS, THAT'S LUKE CAGE'S NAME BY THE WAY...
...HIS REAL NAME.

USED TO RUN AROUND WITH SOME KIDS CALLED THEMSELVES THE RIVALS.
BECAUSE, I GUESS, ALL THE GOOD NAMES WERE TAKEN.
RUNNING AROUND CAUSING TROUBLE.
THEN THEY STARTED DOING ERRANDS FOR THIS WISE GUY, SONNY CAPUTO.

BUT YOU DIDN'T HEAR THAT FROM ME.
LISTEN, I'M NO FAN OF LUKE CAGE, BUT THE KID DID GO STRAIGHT AND WILLIS WENT TO THE DARK SIDE.
THE EASY MONEY.

THEY STAYED BROS.
BUT THEN...
...THE GIRL.

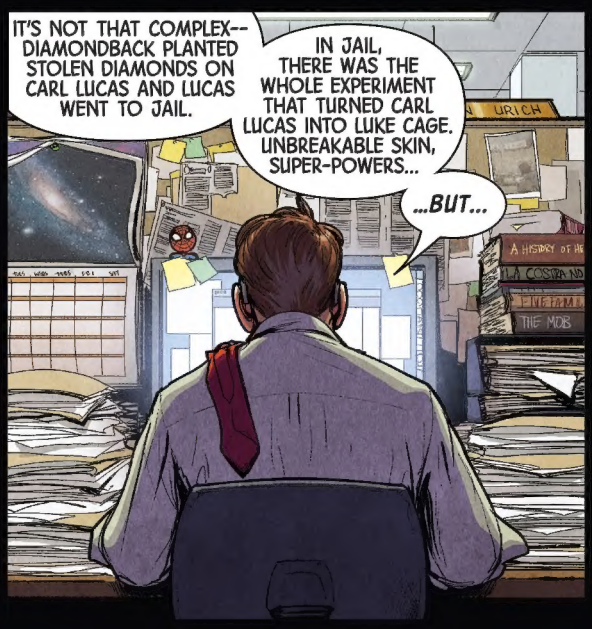
REVA CONNORS.

I GUESS SHE LIKED THEM BOTH.
SHE WAS PLAYIN' THEM.
THAT'S WHAT YOU'D DO.
MAYBE SHE REALLY DID LIKE THEM BOTH.
IT HAPPENS.

SHE--SHE WAS SPECIAL. A SPECIAL SPIRIT. HAD A BRIGHT FUTURE.
AND I'M NOT JUST SAYING THAT...SHE WAS A WRITER.
SHE FELL FOR LUKE CAGE BECAUSE, WELL...
TEACHER CHECKLIST
FACULTY

LOOK AT HIM.
AND DIAMONDBACK, MAN, HE LOST IT. HE LOST HIS #$@#$.
HE LOST HIS MIND OVER THIS CHICK!
IT'S LIKE HER REJECTION OF HIM FOR CAGE, IT SOLIDIFIED EVERY--EVERY--
(WHAT'S THE WORD?)

--WORST FEAR IN THE BROTHER'S HEAD.
HE SNAPPED.
HE WENT AFTER CAGE IN THE WORST WAY.
ELICATESSEN
Sandwiches · Meats


IT'S NOT THAT COMPLEX--DIAMONDBACK PLANTED STOLEN DIAMONDS ON CARL LUCAS AND LUCAS WENT TO JAIL.
IN JAIL, THERE WAS THE WHOLE EXPERIMENT THAT TURNED CARL LUCAS INTO LUKE CAGE. UNBREAKABLE SKIN, SUPER-POWERS...
...BUT...
A HISTORY OF THE
THE MOB

MEANWHILE, WHEN THE MOB FOUND OUT THAT WILLIS HAD STOLEN THEIR DIAMONDS TO PLANT ON CAGE...
OH! THEY PUNISHED HIM BY GETTING RID OF THE WOMAN.
POP POP.

THEY KILLED HER.
THEY DONE HER WRONG FOR WHAT HE DID.

AND SHE NEVER DID NOTHIN' TO NOBODY.

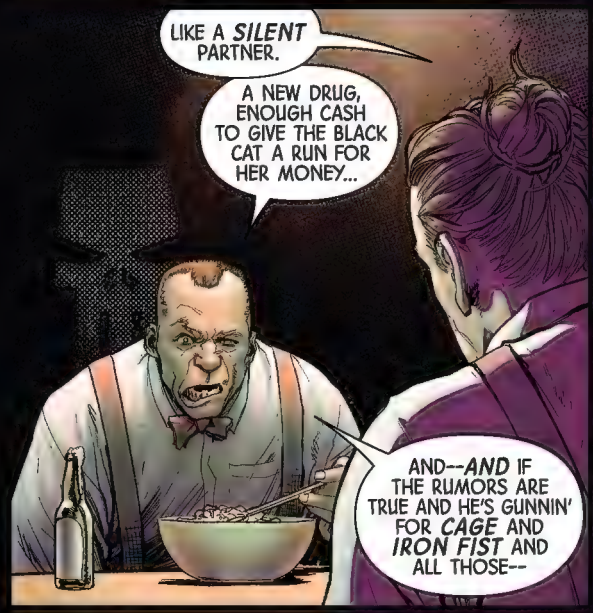
SO WHEN CAGE GOT OUT OF JAIL, THOSE TWO WERE, YEAH, NO LONGER FRIENDS.
SHAKESPEAREAN, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
TWO FRIENDS FALLING OUT OVER A WOMAN, IT ENDS IN TRAGEDY...
...BUT WHAT PEOPLE DON'T KNOW...

...IS HOW DIAMONDBACK IS BACK.
HE DIED.
NOT LIKE THE WAY PEOPLE DIE AROUND SPIDER-MAN WHERE YOU DON'T ALWAYS KNOW IF THEY REALLY DID.

PEOPLE SAW THE BODY. THEY BURIED THE BODY.
SO THE FACT THAT HE'S BACK, EVEN IN THIS WEIRD WORLD WE LIVE IN...
IT'S CRAZY.

HE'S BACK FROM THE DEAD AND HE'S FULLY FINANCED?
COME ON, MY MAN...
YEAH, WHERE IS HE GETTING THE SCRATCH?

AND WHERE'D HE GET THE NEW POWERHOUSE DESIGNER DRUG?
M'SAYIN' IF IT IS HIM, I DON'T THINK IT'S JUST HIM.
YOU THINK HE'S NOT WHO HE SAYS HE IS.
HE HAS TO HAVE A BACKER.


LIKE A SILENT PARTNER.
A NEW DRUG, ENOUGH CASH TO GIVE THE BLACK CAT A RUN FOR HER MONEY...
AND--AND IF THE RUMORS ARE TRUE AND HE'S GUNNIN' FOR CAGE AND IRON FIST AND ALL THOSE--

--THEN HE IS EITHER CRAZIER THAN YOUR COUSIN, OR--
HEY, THE MAN IS PAYING AND I AM IN THE MOOD TO BE PAID.

HEY, YEAH, HE PAYS BETTER THAN WILSON FISK EVER DID, AND AS SOON AS--
WHAT?

SHUCKK

WHERE IS DIAMONDBACK'S MAIN HEADQUARTERS?
PLEASE DON'T KILL ME.
WHERE DOES HE LIVE?

HI, FRANK.
CRACCKK
DAREDEVIL.
DAMN YOU!
NUH-UH.

HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
WE WEREN'T LOOKIN' FOR YOU.
WE WERE LOOKIN' UP DIAMONDBACK.
I DIDN'T HEAR YOU SNEAK UP ON ME.
I GOT A KID NOW. SHE NAPS. I LEARNED STEALTH.
YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT IT. SETTLING DOWN.
HAVING A COUPLE OF PSYCHOS.
FRANK, QUESTION...
...WHY DID YOU SHOOT AT US BEFORE?
I HAD A COUPLE OF KIDS.
THEY WERE MURDERED!!!

SEE, YOU GOT HIM RILED UP AGAIN.
DID YOU JUST SPLASH ME WITH ACID?
HE CARRIES ACID AROUND?
LET GO.
YES, HE'S CERTIFIABLY INSANE.
THAT'S WHAT CERTIFIABLY INSANE PEOPLE DO.
DON'T YOU PAINT ME WITH THAT BRUSH, DEVIL MAN.
I FIGHT THE SAME FIGHT YOU DO, EXCEPT--
ANOTHER SHIRT.
YES, YES, YOU HAVE THE GUTS TO TAKE IT ALL THE WAY. BRAVO TO YOU.
LUKE, DID YOU EVER LOOK INTO SHIRTS MADE OF UNSTABLE MOLECULES?
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THAT COSTS?
AND SPEAKING OF MONEY, I DON'T HAVE A WAY TO MAKE ANY BECAUSE DIAMONDBACK BLEW MY BUSINESS UP WITH A MISSILE.
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY. IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.
NOW WHY YOU TRYING TO KEEP HIM ALL TO YOURSELF?
BECAUSE I DON'T TRUST PEOPLE IN MASKS!
COME AGAIN?
DO YOU KNOW WHO THAT IS?
BECAUSE I DON'T.

SO YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T FEEL LIKE--
GRBLEGRBLE...
SSHH.
DID YOU JUST TAP HIM OUT?
YEAH. HE WASN'T GONNA TELL US ANYTHING.
WELL, HE CERTAINLY WON'T NOW.
MAN, THIS PUNK SHOT MY WIFE, YOU'RE LUCKY HIS HEAD IS STILL IN THE TRI-STATE AREA. I WAS PROFESSIONAL.
YOU KNOW, HE HAS A POINT.
WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
YES, YOU DO.
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR YEARS.
BUT IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE THINGS HAVE CHANGED, NO?
I MEAN, IF WE'RE REALLY GONNA MAKE A GO AT THIS "DEFENDING THE STREETS" THING...
...WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO TRUST AND COUNT ON EACH OTHER IN PRETTY STRESSFUL--
LET ME THINK ABOUT IT.
HEY, WE BAGGED THE PUNISHER.
HE'LL MURDER A BUNCH OF PRISONERS IN JAIL BEFORE HIS DARING ESCAPE NEXT MONTH.
YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO RUIN A PARTY.
LET'S HOPE JESSICA AND DANNY ARE HAVING A BETTER PARTY.
SEE? IT'S NICE KNOWING THEIR NAMES.
I SAID I'D THINK ABOUT IT.
CAN I GUESS?
IS IT GARY?

GARY WHO?
I DON'T KNOW.
HE JUST THINKS DAREDEVIL'S REAL NAME IS GARY.
DO WE KNOW A GARY?
LUKE THINKS SO.
A STAKE-OUT.
I HAVE TO PEE.
I DO IT ALL THE TIME. IT'S NOT SEXY.
SEE?
I NEVER HAVE TO PEE.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU-- HOLD ON.
YOU GOT THE LICENSE PLATE?
THERE ISN'T ONE.
HE'S GOOD.
HOLD ON.

@#$@#!
WE'RE OUT OF HERE.
I DON'T THINK SO.
YOU KNEW WE WOULD COME FOR YOU.
SURE. I JUST DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE ALL STUPID.
WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.
FIGHTING IS NOT THE ANSWER...
...IS SOMETHING I *USUALLY* SAY.
IS IT NOW?
FRUMMP
COME ON!

@#$@#!
JHA!
CRRA
CKK
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT!

@kylejohnson2813
I love the FCBD issue, I love street level adventures and I'm happy we are getting just that #Defenderscomic

@WitleyChip
The FCBD #Defenderscomic was promising as hell and beautiful to look at.

@TDSpidey616
#Defenderscomic
SWEET CHRISTMAS! 'nuff said!

DEFENDERS #4

ALL ON SALE NEXT MONTH!

LUKE CAGE #4

JESSICA JONES #11

DAREDEVIL #25

IRON FIST #6

We want to hear from you! Send your letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM marked "OKAY TO PRINT," or tweet us using the hashtags #DefendersComic and #OKtoprint for a chance to see your tweet printed in future issues!